FACT SHEET | Investing in Kids, Families, and Communities

2016 Budget for a Better Minnesota

Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith are fighting to build an economy that works for all Minnesotans by making sure every child receives an excellent education. The Governor and Lt. Governor are proposing the next step towards voluntary PreKindergarten for all Minnesota families, everywhere in the state. The investment proposed by the Governor and Lt. Governor this session would get Minnesota closer to this goal – by giving thousands more families the choice to enroll their child in quality, affordable early learning programs. In addition, the Governor and Lt. Governor are proposing initiatives that would support our most vulnerable children, our youngest learners, empower teachers, and save families money. This plan would help close achievement gaps and help ensure Minnesota has a world-class workforce that is ready to innovate and create jobs.

Investing in Minnesota Kids

- Moving Minnesota Closer to Voluntary PreKindergarten for All Families Out of the 41 states that offer preschool programming, Minnesota ranks last in access for four-year-olds. This leaves too many of our kids unprepared to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond. To help close this opportunity gap, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith are proposing the next step towards voluntary PreKindergarten for all Minnesota families. Their budget would invest \$25 million to make quality, affordable early learning available to 3,700 more Minnesota four-year-olds. This optional preschool program, combined with existing preschool scholarships serving roughly 5,600 four-year-olds, would help ensure about 12.6 percent of Minnesota four-year-olds are enrolled in quality early learning programs, setting them up for success in school and life.
- Family Home Visiting Minnesota teenagers gave birth to 2,733 children in 2014. These new parents often lack family support, high school diplomas, and parenting skills. To help teen parents and their newborns get off to a strong start, the Governor and Lt. Governor are proposing a \$10.9 million new investment in the Department of Health's highly effective Home Visiting Program, which helps the parents of at-risk children develop the skills they need to care for their child. Economists have found that home visiting programs can return \$5.70 for every \$1.00 invested, by increasing graduation rates, decreasing incarceration rates, improving school readiness, and supporting children's health. The proposal also will improve access to evidence-based home visiting for all high-risk mothers by increasing Medical Assistance payments for these services.
- Alleviating Minnesota's Teacher Shortage Each year, Minnesota schools lose about 5,800 teachers to retirement, other states, and career changes. And right now, our state isn't producing enough new teachers to fill the gap. This problem is particularly acute in Greater Minnesota communities that are attempting fill open positions in science and math. Similarly, Minnesota's teacher workforce doesn't reflect the growing diversity of our state. Only 3.8 percent of teachers are people of color, while 30 percent of their students are children of color. These teachers play important roles in closing the achievement gap: serving as cultural mediators, advocates, and role models. To develop a diverse and robust teacher workforce, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed \$12.4 million to help train and attract up to 1,200 teacher candidates by 2021.
- **Help Me Grow** Too often, Minnesota families get lost navigating state government and miss out on the services there to help them. That is why the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$1 million investment to establish a centralized, "no wrong door" access system for all Minnesota families with children prenatal through age 8 to better connect them to resources that support healthy child development.
- Full Service Community Schools Community schools offer a wide range of support and opportunities to children and their families to improve academic and life outcomes. This year, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed \$2 million to increase the number of schools receiving grants in 2017. These grant funds allow schools to partner with community agencies to provide on-site health and dental clinics, mental health services, family resource centers, college access information, out-of-school program information and other family support services.

Investing in Minnesota Families

- Child Care Assistance Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to help low-income families pay for child care. This assistance makes a profound difference for parents and their children allowing parents to pursue education or work, while helping Minnesota kids access high-quality child care. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's proposal would invest \$28.3 million in this initiative with additional resources in future years to increase provider payment rates and removes red tape for families and providers. These investments will result in more stable assistance for families and increase the number of child care providers who can participate in the program, improving care for the more than 30,000 children of low-income parents.
- Paid Parental Leave The first six weeks after a child is born or adopted are an exceptionally important time for Minnesota families, and a critical moment in a child's development. The Governor and Lt. Governor's budget includes \$2 million to provide six weeks of paid parental leave to state employees and would give an estimated 500 parents per year guaranteed paid time off to bond with a new child. This proposal also would save hard-working Minnesotans an average of \$6,200 per year, at a time when they need it most.
- Minnesota Family Investment Program To help 65,000 children and 29,000 adults live better, safer, and healthier lives, the Governor and Lt. Governor's proposal would invest \$4 million with additional resources in future years to increase monthly payments for low-income Minnesota families by \$100 per month, or \$1,200 per year. State assistance for low-income families has not increased since 1986 leaving Minnesotans without the means to provide for their families.

Investing in Minnesota Communities

- St. Cloud Human Rights Office To improve enforcement of state law and make it easier for people living in central Minnesota to file human rights complaints, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$900,000 investment to open a Department of Human Rights Regional Office in St. Cloud. The regional office also will further community outreach efforts to foster trust and address issues of bias.
- **Helping Connect Young People with Work** Approximately 57,000 Minnesota young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor enrolled in school, denying them the opportunity to develop the skills to get a good-paying job and get ahead. Minnesota is expected to face a worker shortage of up to 100,000 people by 2020, and our state needs all Minnesotans to get the job training and support they need to fulfill those opportunities. This year, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed an \$8 million investment for the Department of Employment and Economic Development's Youth at Work program, which provides job training, employment opportunities, networking, apprenticeships, skill development, and help applying for college.
- Creating Pathways to Prosperity Minnesota's Pathways to Prosperity Programs provides adults who've had challenges securing employment with education, and skills-based training and credentials. The program focuses on meaningful career pathways to expand opportunity for good paying jobs that can support Minnesota families. In 2015 alone, the Pathways to Prosperity program help more than 3,000 Minnesotans get training for jobs in health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and other great careers. This year, the Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor are proposing an additional \$4.1 million to help more Minnesotans get the education they need to join the innovation economy.
- Investing in Minnesota's Tribal Nations The Governor and Lt. Governor's budget would invest \$5 million to empower Minnesota's tribal nations to provide culturally-responsive health and human services to their members and families. This investment would enhance the work of the White Earth Nation, Red Lake Nation, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
- Iron Range Relief Thousands of laid-off steelworkers on Minnesota's Iron Range have been without income for months now. Since November, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have called for an extension of the benefits that these hardworking Minnesotans have earned, to give their families the relief they need and the peace of mind they deserve. Governor Dayton is calling on the Legislature to send him a clean bill to extend those benefits, without making out-of-luck Minnesotans wait one day more.